

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-18 are pending in the instant patent application. Claims 1-18 are rejected. Claims 1, 5, 10, 12 and 15 have been amended. Claims 4 and 9 have been canceled. No new matter has been added.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner has indicated Claims 4, 9 and 10 would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Claim 1 (upon which Claims 2 and 3 depend) has been amended to include the allowable subject matter. Likewise, Claim 5 (upon which Claims 6-8 and 10 depend), Claim 12 (upon which Claims 13 and 14 depend) and Claim 15 (upon which Claims 16-18 depend) have been amended to include the allowable subject matter.

Claims 2, 3, 6-8, 10, 13, 14 and 16-18 are patentable by virtue of their dependency. Accordingly, allowance of Claims 1-3, 5-8, and 10-18 is earnestly solicited.

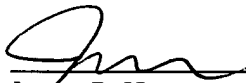
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims in the instant patent application are in condition for allowance. The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the Application and allowance of the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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